

thank Chairman BRADY for heeding the concerns of those of us from overtaxed States like California.

By allowing greater flexibility in deducting State and local taxes and by lowering all tax rates, the final measure assures that virtually every family will be paying lower taxes even though losing much of their State and local tax deductions. In fact, in my district, the average household will see a tax cut of \$1,900 as a result.

Yet I still receive many calls from constituents who fear their taxes will go up and their standard of living will go down. They believe this because this is what they have been told by the Democrats and by the media.

Now that the bill is in effect, I think people are about to see their paychecks grow, their job prospects brighten, and their family finances improve. Indeed, the day that President Trump signed the bill, companies across America began announcing bonuses, pay raises, and major new investment plans in the American economy, and those announcements just keep coming.

A variety of tax calculators are already available on the internet so that every family can see for themselves how they personally benefit from the tax cuts. I would recommend a Web site called taxplancalculator.com. There, people can input their own tax figures and see how much their family will save.

In February, withholding tables will reflect the newer, lower rates, and the take-home pay for the vast majority of Americans will jump even before accounting for the surge in wages that always accompanies an economic expansion.

By spring, most economists expect a significant burst of economic growth. As tax barriers come down, capital stranded offshore is already coming home. This morning, Apple announced it is bringing back most of its quarter trillion dollars of capital now stuck offshore.

Immediate expensing reforms will accelerate equipment purchases, and an internationally competitive corporate tax rate will mean new investments in making products, once again, in America.

If The New York Times poll from yesterday is any indication, the American people are already beginning to see the truth. That poll tracked an 18-point swing from disapproval to approval of the reform in just 1 month.

The scare-mongering by congressional Democrats went further than claims that the tax reform would produce only middle class misery and economic malaise. They also claimed that millions of Americans would lose their health insurance because of it. How so? Because this bill removes the stiff tax penalties that are levied against 6½ million American families who choose not to purchase overpriced ObamaCare policies. It is a minimum of \$2,100 of penalty for a family of four. These families will now have that

money available to meet their own needs, including purchasing inexpensive policies available on the private market.

This begs two questions: If ObamaCare is so wonderful, why do we have to force families to buy it? And, if 6½ million families already prefer paying the stiff penalty to buying the insurance, what does that say about the signature achievement of the Obama Democrats?

The Democrats have seized on projections that the reform will add \$1.5 trillion of new debt over the next 10 years based on their assumption it will produce no economic growth. Yet, when Ronald Reagan cut the top marginal tax rate by half, income tax revenues doubled. Several prominent economists are predicting an additional \$2 trillion of new tax revenues to all levels of government solely due to economic expansion from this law.

The final line of attack is that the personal income tax cuts will expire in 8 years, leaving many Americans worse off. Well, that is perhaps the most dangerous argument for the Democrats to make because every American understands the answer to that question depends upon who controls Congress.

Democrats have made it clear that, if they are returned to office, the tax cuts are over, and Republicans have made it just as clear that our unfinished business is make take those cuts permanent. Let the people decide.

Ronald Reagan asked a simple question both in 1980 when he ran against the economic malaise of the Carter policies and again in 1984 after he had implemented the same progrowth policies we now see under President Trump: Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?

No politician or pundit can spin the answer to that question. Every individual American knows that answer precisely in their own lives. And I am looking forward to asking that question again as the tax reform takes effect.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

With the Psalmist, we pray: O, Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Even before the first word is formulated, Lord, guide our minds, our thoughts, our hearts and desires. By Your holy spirit, breathe into us a new spirit. Shape this Congress and our world according to Your design that we may fulfill Your holy will.

Give the Members of this people's House the gift of attentive hearts and open minds, that through the diversity of ideas they may sort out what is best for this Nation. Let them not be afraid of silence, that even before they speak, they may heed Your revealed Word with longing.

May their speech be deliberately free of all prejudice that others may listen wholeheartedly, then their dialogue will be mutually respectful in the hope of bringing unity and justice.

May all that we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MARCHING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)